

EUPHRASIA MICRANTHA NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.—Mount Greylock, a spur of the Taconic Range in Berkshire County, northwestern Massachusetts and the highest point (3491 ft. elevation) in the state, has already received considerable notice in the pages of this journal because of its botanical attractions. These have been revealed chiefly through the explorations of Dr. A. LeRoy Andrews, beginning with an account of the orchids of the region in 1900 and including a series of papers on the bryophytes extending up to 1957. Particularly noteworthy in the flora of the mountain is the subalpine element which, as might be expected, is markedly similar to that of the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Early in the evening of August 26, 1957 the writer, returning from the Adirondacks, made a hurried drive to the summit of Greylock via the excellent road leading from North Adams, on the chance of getting in some botanizing before dusk set in. The most striking plant on the exposed rocky summit at this date proved to be a *Euphrasia* (*F. J. Hermann 14075*, specimens in Gray Herbarium, U. S. National Herbarium, N. Y. Botanical Garden Herbarium and Cambridge University Herbarium, England) occurring in extensive beds, its violet corollas vividly coloring the sparsely grassy stretches surrounding the war memorial beacon which has become a popular tourist attraction.

Later attempts to identify the plant in current floras were unsuccessful. None of the ten species included in Gray's *Manual* would accommodate its combination of blunt bract-teeth and almost solid violet corolla, nor could it be matched with any of the American collections in the U. S. National Herbarium. A specimen sent to Kew was kindly referred by Dr. G. Taylor to Mr. P. F. Yeo, at Cambridge University Botanic Garden, who with Mr. P. D. Sell is at present engaged in a revision of the genus in North America. Mr. Yeo has referred the collection to the European *Euphrasia micrantha* Reichb., and very kindly sent European material of the species for comparison. As Mr. Yeo pointed out the plants from Mt. Greylock are not typical of the prevalent form of the species in Europe, differing chiefly in having very short floral internodes. In this respect it is very similar, however, to specimens collected by Mr. Yeo from cliff-top heaths in Brittany, so that it seems not unlikely that the shortening of the nodes is an ecological response.

The range of *Euphrasia micrantha*, which occurs throughout the British Isles according to Clapham, Tutin and Warburg in their *Flora of the British Isles* (1952), is given by H. W. Pugsley, in his *Revision of the British Euphrasias* (Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 48:488. 1930), as "northwest Europe, including Scandinavia, Germany, Bohemia, and a large part of France". The American species most nearly related to it is *E. disjuncta* Fern. & Wieg., of Labrador, Newfoundland and northern Maine (western plants formerly referred to *E. disjuncta* are really *E. subarctica* Raup, according to Hultén), which is also referred by Pugsley (Journ. Bot. 74:287. 1936) to the Series Latifoliae of the Subsect. Ciliatae, Sect. Semicalcaratae. Although characterized by blunt bract-teeth in common with *E. micrantha*, it is very unlike that plant in general aspect, the spikes being widely interrupted (lower bracts 2–5 cm. apart), and is readily distinguished from the European species by its larger, much broader and pubescent leaves and bracts.

Although the occurrence of this European species in well-established colonies on a New England mountain top was unexpected, it does not seem improbable that it was introduced there in view of the fact that the number of visitors at the locality must run into many thousands each year, and that not a few other exotic plants have turned up in much less frequented areas.—F. J. HERMANN, CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION, A.R.S., U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND.

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